

California Department of Water Resources



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Free Fourth of July Fireworks Display Will Light Up Lake Oroville

An annual Fourth of July tradition continues at Lake Oroville this year with a half-hour fireworks show at no cost to the public. The major display will explode over the huge State Water Project reservoir in Butte County starting at 9:45 p.m.

It's the seventh consecutive year for the spectacular event sponsored by the Sunrise Rotary Club of Oroville and the Department of Water Resources (in cooperation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the City of Oroville and local businesses).

"This fireworks display celebrates our nation's Independence Day and draws attention to the many recreation facilities we have here at Lake Oroville," said Tom Glover, Chief of DWR's Oroville Field Division.

Several thousand spectators are expected to view the fireworks from vantage points around the lake with many watching the show from atop the mile-long Oroville Dam. Because of security concerns, vehicle parking will not be permitted on the dam but food and non-alcoholic beverages will be available there from vendors.

The main road on the crest of Oroville Dam will be closed to vehicular traffic late Thursday afternoon, except for free shuttle buses and vans sponsored by the City of Oroville that will transport spectators.

Beginning at approximately 6 p.m., buses will run every 15 minutes in a loop from city parking lots in downtown Oroville. Shuttle vans will cover portions of the Kelly Ridge area. Buses will pick up passengers at the bus stop behind Raley's on Spencer Street near Mitchell; Lot A in front of Civic Auditorium; Lot B on Bird Street at the corner of Downer Street; Lot C behind the State Theatre; and Lot D at the corner of Robinson and Myers Streets.

At the conclusion of the event, shuttle transportation will be available from the center of the Dam to downtown Oroville. In the Kelly Ridge area, public shuttle vans will travel from the south end of the dam to Canyon Drive and on to Almond Drive. From there, the vans will go to Hillcrest Avenue and on to Olive Highway (with pickups at The Oaks and the parking lot of Lakeside Market), then begin the return portion of the loop. The vans can pick up passengers along the way if seats are available and there is a safe stopping spot.

Because July Fourth falls on a Thursday this year, many people are expected to take Friday off, creating a four-day weekend. That will allow plenty of time to enjoy the many boating, fishing, camping, hiking and riding opportunities at Lake Oroville, which has 167 miles of shoreline and a surface area of nearly 16,000 acres. Boat launch facilities are available at Thermalito Afterbay, the North and South Forebays, as well as at Spillway, Loafer Creek, Lime Saddle Marina and Bidwell Canyon Marina.

The Department of Parks and Recreation operates the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, which offers land and floating campsites, boat ramp facilities, riding trails and a group equestrian camp.

State Parks officials are reminding holiday visitors of several safety rules:

- Boats must stay outside the marked area around the fireworks launching area.
- Boat running lights are required from sunset to sunrise.
- The speed limit on the lake is 5 mph 30 minutes after sunset.
- Boats must stay 500 feet from the dam.
- Ground fires are prohibited.

DWR and DPR jointly operate the Lake Oroville Visitors Center at 917 Kelly Ridge Road. The Center offers exhibits about dam construction during the 1960s, the historic legacy of the Oroville region, more than 40 films free of charge, and access to easy walking nature trails.

Located 75 miles north of Sacramento, Lake Oroville is easily reached via State Highway 70. Lake Oroville is the key Northern California storage reservoir of the State Water Project, storing up to 3.5 million acre-feet of water. DWR operates the State Water Project and Oroville Dam, the tallest dam in the United States.